THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Sir, a Price Monitoring Cell under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat has been set up.

(b) The composition of the members of this Cell are as follows:

1.	Additional Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat	Chairman
2.	Representative of D/o Consumer Affairs	Member
3.	Representative of D/o Food and Public Distribution	Member
4.	Representative of D/o IPP	Member
5.	Representative of D/o Economic Affairs	Member
6.	Representative of D/o Agriculture and Cooperation	Member

(c) and (d) This Cell monitors on a daily basis State-wise and region-wise prices of all identified essential commodities and makes quick and immediate intervention with central Government Ministries on problems of the States on essential commodities leading to shortages in identified areas.

(e) Government has been taking various steps from time to time to control inflation. These include fiscal, monetary and supply side management.

Assessment regarding black money

†2300. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Governent have made any assessment regarding black money in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are contemplating to introduce any scheme for voluntary disclosure of black money to bring it out;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(e) the details of other steps being taken by Government to control the black money?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) There is no formal estimate of black money presently in the country. At the instance of the Government, the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP) had an 1985 attempted an estimate of black money in circulation in the country. According to the report of the NIPFP the total amount of black money in the country during financial year 1983-84 was estimated between Rs. 31,584 crores and Rs. 36,786 crores.

(c) and (d) Presently, there is no proposal to launch any voluntary disclosure scheme for disclosure of black money.

(e) The income tax department takes several punitive and deterrent steps to control black money. These include scrutiny of returns, surveys, search and seizure action, imposition of penalty and launching of prosecution in appropriate cases. Further, by the Finance Act, 2005 the Government have introduced two additional anti-tax evasion measures, namely, levy of Banking Cash Transaction Tax to establish the trail of large cash withdrawals through banking channels; and furnishing of quarterly returns of certain deposits as prescribed under section 206A of the Income Tax Act.

Ending of bilateral financial AID by US

2301. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United States has decided to end all bilateral financial aid to India following the country's economic surge in recent years;

(b) whether any process for ending the bilateral trade has commenced;

(c) whether any parleys have been held in this regard between the two Governments; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.